CLAIMS:

1. In a computing system consisting of a processor, associated memory, storage and input and output devices, and an email system characterised in that the said email system includes:

    -   a means for the user to define search parameters and possible values for each parameter with corresponding graphical images, for identifying and/or prioritising received email messages,

    -   a means for parsing the contents of the email header and body contents and displaying the parameter values of the said messages in graphical form using the said graphical images,

    -   a means for grouping, and prioritising the said graphical message displays in accordance with user-defined requirements, and

    -   a means for accessing any message selected from the said graphical display.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for defining search parameters includes a parameter definition table containing parameter name, possible values and corresponding icon/symbol/ letter/color.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parameters include sender, subject, and specific content keyword and/or phrase.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for defining parameters values and corresponding graphical images includes buttons and icons in the graphical user interface that can be selected using a pointing device.

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5. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein said buttons are arranged in 17 columns and 14 rows i.e. a total of 238 buttons.

6. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is a standard text parsing means.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for grouping and prioritising the graphical display is a graphical sorting means.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for accessing any message is the keyboard or pointing device.

9. A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a means for increasing and reducing the size of the graphical display images depending on the volume of email so as to cover as many images as possible on the screen.

10. A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a means for simultaneously displaying a screenful of significant number of e-mail contents, in separate scrollable frames, by mouse selection of e-mail button(s) or by search window means.

11. A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a means for replying any e-mail in its frame while viewing one screenful of frames of e-mail contents of the chosen group(s).

12. A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a hierarchical email

classification system consisting of:

- a means for the user to define parameters for classifying received email messages,

- a means for classifying each email after parsing email content or header to obtain values of classification parameters,

- a means for arranging and displaying said classified email messages in a hierarchical structure,

- a means for descending or ascending to a particular level in the structured hierarchy,

- a means for accessing a message at the lower level of the hierarchy from said display.

13. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said parameters for classification include sender, user, subject, domain, Keyword, size of the message and date of email message.

14. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said means for parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is a standard text parsing means.

15. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said means for displaying and selecting the said email messages in a hierarchical structure is by means of buttons in the graphical user interface.

16. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said means for accessing any message is by using the keyboard or pointing device.

17. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein for sender, subject and domain

classification parameters the hierarchy is defined by the letter sequence in the text value of the classification parameter.

18.   A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein for size classification parameter the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of range and subranges of size values.

19.   A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the date classification parameter, the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of date ranges and subranges.

20.   In a computing system, a method for analysing and prioritising received email messages using graphical techniques comprising:
-    defining search parameters and possible values for each parameter with corresponding graphical images, for identifying and/or prioritising received email messages,
-    parsing the contents of the email header and body contents and displaying the parameter values of the said messages in graphical form using the said graphical images,
-    grouping, and prioritising the said graphical message displays in accordance with user-defined requirements, and
-    accessing any message selected from the said graphical display.

21.   A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said search parameters and possible values are defined using a parameter definition table method containing parameter name, possible values and corresponding icon/symbol/letter/color.

22. A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said parameters include sender, subject, and specific content keyword and/or phrase.

23. A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein said parameters values and corresponding graphical images include the use of buttons and icons in the graphical user interface that can be selected using a pointing device.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said buttons are arranged in 17 columns and 14 rows i.e. a total of 238 buttons.

25. A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is carried out by standard text parsing methods.

26. A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the grouping and prioritising the graphical display is carried out by graphical sorting methods.

27. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said accessing of any message is done by using the keyboard or pointing device.

28. A method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising increasing and reducing the size of the graphical display images depending on the volume of email so as to cover as many images as possible on the screen

29. A method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising simultaneously displaying a screenful of significant number of e-mail contents, in separate scrollable frames, by mouse selection of e-mail button(s) or by search window means.

30   A method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising replying any e-mail in its frame while viewing one screenful of frames of e-mail contents of the chosen group(s).

5   31.   A method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising a method for analysing and prioritising received email messages in a hierarchical structure consisting of:

-    defining parameters for classifying received email messages,
-    classifying each email after parsing email content or header to
10   obtain values of classification parameters,
-    arranging and displaying said classified email messages in a hierarchical structure,
-    descending or ascending to a particular level in the structured hierarchy,
15   -   accessing a message at the lower level of the hierarchy from said display.

32.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said parameters for classification include sender, user, subject, domain, keyword, size of the
20   message and date of email message.

33.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is a standard text parsing method.

25   34.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein displaying and selecting the said email messages in a hierarchical structure is by means of buttons in the graphical user interface.

35.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein accessing of any message is
        carried out by using the keyboard or pointing device.

36.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein for sender, subject and domain
    5   classification parameters the hierarchy is defined by the letter sequence in
        the text value of the classification parameter.

37.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein for size classification
        parameter the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of range and
   10   subranges of size values.

38.   A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the date classification
        parameter, the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of date ranges
        and subranges.

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39.   A computer program product comprising computer readable program
        code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for
        causing a computer to analyse and prioritise received email messages,
        characterised in that, it includes:

   20   -   computer readable code means configured for enabling the user to
                define search parameters and possible values for each parameter
                with corresponding graphical images, for identifying and/or
                prioritising received email messages,

        -       computer readable code means configured for parsing the contents
   25   of the email header and body contents and displaying the
                parameter values of the said messages in graphical form using the
                said graphical images,

        -       computer readable code means configured for grouping, and

prioritising the said graphical message displays in accordance with user-defined requirements, and

- computer readable code means configured for accessing any message selected from the said graphical display.

40. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39, wherein said computer readable code means is configured for defining search parameters includes a parameter definition table containing parameter name, possible values and corresponding icon/symbol/letter/color.

41. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 wherein said parameters include sender, subject, and specific content keyword and/or phrase.

42. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 wherein said computer readable code means is configured for defining parameters values and corresponding graphical images includes buttons and icons in the graphical user interface that can be selected using a pointing device.

43. A computer program product as claimed in claim 42 wherein said buttons are arranged in 17 columns and 14 rows i.e. a total of 238 buttons.

44. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 wherein the computer readable code means is configured for parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is a standard text parsing means.

45. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 wherein said

computer readable code means is configured for grouping and prioritising the graphical display is a graphical sorting means.

46. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 wherein said computer readable code means is configured for accessing any message is the keyboard or pointing device.

47. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 further comprising a computer readable code means configured for increasing and reducing the size of the graphical display images depending on the volume of email so as to cover as many images as possible on the screen

48. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 further comprising a computer readable code means configured for simultaneously displaying a screenful of significant number of e-mail contents, in separate scrollable frames, by mouse selection of e-mail button(s) or by search window means.

49. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 further comprising a computer readable code means configured for replying to any e-mail in its frame while viewing one screenful of frames of e-mail contents of the chosen group(s).

50. A computer program product as claimed in claim 39 further comprising computer readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing a computer to analyse and prioritise the received email messages in a hierarchical structure, said computer program code consisting of:

-   computer readable program code means configured for defining parameters for classifying received email messages,
-   computer readable program code means configured for classifying each email after parsing email contents or header to obtain values of classification parameters,
-   computer readable program code means configured for arranging and displaying said classified email messages in a hierarchical structure,
-   computer readable program code means configured for descending or ascending to a particular level in the structured hierarchy,
-   computer readable program code means configured for accessing a message at the lower level of the hierarchy from said display.

51. A computer program product system as claimed in claim 50 wherein said parameters for classification include sender, user, subject, domain, keyword, size of the message and date of email message.

52. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for parsing the contents of the email header and body contents is a standard text parsing means.

53. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for displaying and selecting the said email messages in a hierarchical structure is by means of buttons in the graphical user interface.

54. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said

computer readable program code means configured for accessing any message is the keyboard or pointing device.

55. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said computer readable program code means for sender, subject and domain classification parameters the hierarchy is defined by the letter sequence in the text value of the classification parameter.

56. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said computer readable program code means for size classification parameter, the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of range and subranges of size values.

57. A computer program product as claimed in claim 50 wherein said computer readable program code means for the date classification parameter, the hierarchical sequence is defined in terms of date ranges and subranges.